

Swedish American Historical Society of Wisconsin, Inc.

OCTOBER 2025



COMING EVENTS

- October 18 – Annual Meeting and Emma’s Story
- November 8 - Swedish Genealogy Research
- November 21-23 – Holiday Folk Fair
- December 14 – Lucia Pageant

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1:30 PM—ANNUAL MEETING AND FIKA MEETING WITH EMMA’S STORY—Martin Luther Lutheran Church, 9235 W Bluemound Road, Milwaukee

The Fika meeting will feature Emma’s Story, presented by Karen Snowberg. It will be preceded by the Annual General Meeting which will include the presentation of annual reports by officers and committee leaders and the election of two directors.

After the meeting, stay and enjoy traditional Fika the Swedish way. If you can, bring a dish to share. Do you have a favorite Swedish recipe you want to share? If so, bring it and we can add it to the website Swedish Food Heritage page.

Emma came to this country from **Öland**, Sweden in **1882** at the age of 16. In the great emigration from Sweden to America, a larger percentage of its population left the island of Öland than from any other area of Sweden. Emma would never talk about her family in Sweden or her life there. 50 years after her passing, through extensive research by the **Snowbergs** in the US and the **Snöbergs** in Sweden her life in Sweden was fleshed out. **Emma** was **Karen Snowberg’s** Grandmother or in Swedish Mormor (Mother’s mother). Come to the meeting and find out about Emma’s life in Sweden, and how the Snowbergs found out.



ELECTION OF DIRECTORS—

During the Annual Meeting, two directors will be on the ballot. Jan Ehrengren and John Elliot have completed three-year terms; both have been nominated for re-election. In accordance with the bylaws, additional nominations may be made only by petition in writing by two or more Society members to the Secretary, along with written consent of each such additional nominee, prior to the opening of such Annual General Meeting.

HOLIDAY FOLK FAIR—

The 82nd Holiday Folk Fair will be November 21-23 at Exposition Center at Wisconsin State Fair Park. SAHSWI as part of the Nordic Council will again sponsor an information table. It allows us to reach a wide group of people and tell them about our organization. If you would be interested in helping, please let Liza Ekstrand know.

LOOKING BACK AT THE YEAR AND REMEMBERING OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH US—

Sylvia Blomgren Kreutzmann passed away on April 21 at the age of 87. Sylvia had a degree in nursing where she met many long-term friends. She was proud of her Swedish heritage and was a member of SAHSWI for many years and was a willing helper whenever she was needed.

Nancy Moberg Foss passed away on June 16. She was the wife of Doug and supported his Swedish endeavors, including his leadership roles and treasurer of SAHSWI.

Hugh Simonson was no longer an active member the last few years, but previously he and his wife were an important part of the genealogy group in SAHSWI.

Marge Warmie Jothen passed away on October 1. Marge was an integral part of SAHSWI for over 40 years, serving in many capacities, including president, historian, chair of genealogy group. **Her Celebration of Life will be at Luther Manor on November 1.** There are more details on SAHSWI.org as well as a link to her obituary.

THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE SAMI PEOPLE

At the SAHSWI Fika meeting on May 17, SAHSWI member **Michaela Yukus** gave an inspiring and very interesting presentation about the Sami people. Sami country – known as Sápmi – stretches across the northern parts of Sweden, Norway and Finland, and Russia's Kola Peninsula. The Sami are one of the world's indigenous peoples and one of Sweden's official national minorities. Michaela's presentation was packed with facts....

- There are 9 different Sami groups speaking different languages
- The early settlers came to the Sápmi over 10 thousand years ago
- Petroglyphs are Sami carvings dating back 6 thousand years
- Traditionally Samis lived tentlike structures called Lavvu made by sticks and reindeer hides
- Samis eat reindeer meat and cheese soaked in coffee as a treat. (Kaffeost)
- Gakti is the iconic traditional dress of the Sami People.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAHSWI—

The program was held at St. Anskar's Church which was also celebrating their 50th anniversary. Participants were as follows:

- Welcome – Father Buchans
- Introduction – Jan Ehrengren
- SAHSWI 50 Years – Martha Bergland
- The Coffee Mug – Meg Haag
- The Bergwall Peterson Descendants – Cletus Hasslinger
- Jägarsång acapella
- Swedish Meatballs and Jansson's Fretelse – Carol Gustafson
- Swedish Folk Music – Goda Vänner

The program was followed by a delightful Fika, including the two foods listed above.

ALFRED NOBEL—

As a new round of Nobel Prizes is being announced, how much do we know about Alfred Nobel other than he was Swedish and had something to do with dynamite?

Alfred Nobel was a Swedish chemist, engineer, and inventor best known for inventing dynamite and establishing the Nobel Prizes. He was born on October 21, 1833, in Stockholm. His family moved to St. Petersburg a few years later where he received an excellent education, becoming fluent in several languages and developing a keen interest in chemistry and literature.

Nobel is most famous for inventing dynamite in 1867; it revolutionized construction and demolition by providing a safer and more manageable explosive. He also created the blasting cap which was essential for detonating dynamite. His innovations significantly impacted mining, construction, and warfare. Most of his wealth came from 355 inventions, of which dynamite was the most famous.

Nobel died on December 10, 1896. In his will, he left most of his fortune to establish Nobel Prizes, which are awarded annually for achievements in Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature and Peace. This decision was influenced by his desire to leave a positive legacy and promote advancements in humanity. His will included details about awarding the prizes and how the money should be managed. The first prizes were awarded in 1901, five years after his death.

The prize in Economic Sciences was established in 1968 by Sveriges Riksbank (Sweden's Central Bank) in memory of Alfred Nobel. His legacy continues through the Nobel Prizes, which are among the most prestigious awards in the world, honoring individuals and organizations for their contributions to society.

Each recipient, known as a laureate, receives a green gold medal, plated with 24-carat gold, a diploma, and a monetary award. As of 2023, the monetary award is 11,000,000 kr, equivalent to roughly \$1,035,000. To date, 632 prizes have been awarded to 1023 individuals and organizations.



The two committees that Nobel left plans for are the Nobel Foundation and the Norwegian Nobel Committee. The Nobel Foundation is a private institute which manages the finances and administration of the prizes and is headquartered in Stockholm. The Norwegian Nobel Committee is also a private entity, with its members chosen by the Norwegian Parliament. It is responsible for selecting the recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Ehrengren, President -- John Elliott, Vice President

Tracy Redman, Secretary -- Irene Roberts, Treasurer

Directors -- John Engel, Meg Haag, Janet Taylor

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